(c) The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of 20 States in the country for withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes. Under the NCLP Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put in special schools where they are provided education, nutrition, vocational training, stipend and health care so as to provide them with enabling environment to join mainstream education system.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing a scheme for welfare of working children in need of care and protection under which Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are assisted for running projects in which bridge education and vocational training are provided to these children.

Awareness regarding girl child

2243. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the shocking practice of female foeticide that has grown in the last few decades and reflected in the declining sex ratio;

(b) whether Government are aware educating the people about the value of child will help to balance the sex ratio in the long run rather than to provide a cradle in every district to the abandoned girl child;

(c) whether Government propose to educate the people about the value of girl child;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the steps taken by the various States to educate the people about the value of girl child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is adopting a multi-pronged approach for tackling female foeticide which includes awareness and gender sensitization for enhancing the value of the girl child and also launching schemes for

survival, welfare and development of girl child. One such scheme is the Cradle or Palna Scheme for rescue of abandoned girl children.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The subject of 'Child Welfare' is a State subject and the State Governments are also undertaking awareness and education programmes about the girl child.

Supplementary nutrition for children, adolescent girls and women

2244. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Supreme Court's directive issued on 29th April, 2004 that all 0 to 5 years old children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and nursing mothers shall receive supplementary nutrition for 300 days in a year has not been implemented and Court has directed in December, 2006 all the Chief Secretaries to personally explain why children and mothers in the country were still starving; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to adopt that the Supreme Court's direction is implemented by the State Governments and what were the constraints that did not allow them to implement the same since April, 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In a PIL filed by the People's Union of Civil Liberties, the Supreme Court, *vide* its order dated 13.12.2006, has, *inter-alia,* directed the Chief Secretaries of some States to appear personally to explain as to why its earlier orders requiring implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme were not obeyed.

(b) The ICDS Scheme is a Centrally sponsored Scheme being implemented through the States/UTs. The States have been requested by the Government to comply with the orders of the Apex Court. In compliance of aforesaid direction, the States/UTs are required to file an affidavit explaining the constraints, if any, in implementation of the Scheme as per the directions of the Court issued from time to time.